

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

1. Amendments to Specification and Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the axial tube engages with the motor stator, as described in lines 11 and 12 on page 7 of the original specification, and illustrated in each of the original drawings.

Claims 7 and 8 have been re-written in independent form to include the limitations of original claim 1, and claims 3, 7, and 8 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, 2nd Paragraph, as described below, and to correct various minor grammatical and idiomatic errors.

New claims 10-12 recite that the stator engages the *outer* surface of the axial tube, as clearly illustrated in each of the original drawings.

Because the changes to the specification and claims are all formal in nature and/or clearly supported by the original specification and drawings, it is respectfully submitted that the changes do not involve new matter.

2. Rejection of Claims 6-10 and 17-19 Under 35 USC §112, 2nd Paragraph

This rejection has been addressed by:

- a. amending claim 3 to recite –an annular wall– rather than “the annular wall”; and
- b. re-writing claims 7 and 8 in independent form so that there is no inconsistency between the spacing recited in claims 7 and 8 and the attachment recited in original claim 1.

3. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 Under 35 USC §102(e) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0017954 (Komori)

This rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that the Komori publication fails to disclose or suggest a dustproof cushion attached to a bearing sleeve received in an axial tube, as recited in claim 1, for the purpose of ensuring lubricant circulation of lubricant around the bearing. Instead, bearing sleeve 8 disclosed in the Komori patent is received in a cylindrical housing 7, which is separate from the axial tube formed by the housing 6. Further, element 7a of Komori is not a cushion “received in the axial tube,” as alleged by the Examiner, but rather is a “sealing portion 7a extending from the top of the body part 7b radially inwards,” the sealing portion 7a being welded to body part 7b of the cylindrical housing 7 (see, paragraph [0080] of Komori).

Thus, the Komori publication fails to disclose or suggest the claimed bearing sleeve received in an axial tube, but rather discloses a bearing sleeve received in a housing, which is received in the axial tube. This increases the number of parts required to form the motor and increases the difficulty of assembly.

In addition, the Komori publication discloses a cushion that is attached (welded) to the cylindrical housing rather than to the bearing sleeve. This further increases the difficulty of assembly.

Finally, there is no suggestion in Komori of radially extending oil-returning grooves in either the seal 7a. Radial groove 8f₃ of Komori is in the bearing and not the seal.

Because the Komori publication does not disclose or suggest the claimed *combination* of a sleeve received in an axial tube and a dustproof cushion attached to the sleeve, as recited in claim 1, or the radial groove of claim 2, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 under 35 USC §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Serial Number 10/730,075


4. Indication of Allowability

It is respectfully noted that claims 7 and 8 have been re-written in independent form, including all of the limitations of original claim 1 (except the inconsistent "attachment" limitation objected-to under 35 USC §112, 2nd Paragraph), and therefore should be allowed by virtue of the indication of allowability included on page 3 of the Official Action.

Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Urcia', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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